

Message Text

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12

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3820

INFO SECDEF

COE RIYADH

COE LIVORNO MEDDIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: CORPS OF ENGINEERS ASSISTANCE TO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND HOUSING

REF: STATE 22746

1. ON FEBRUARY 1, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY REFTEL
WE DELIVERED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY A DIPLOMATIC NOTE PRO-
POSING THE MODIFICATION OF THE 1965 CORPS OF ENGINEERS AGREE-
MENT TO PERMIT CORPS OF ENGINEERS COOPERATION WITH CIVILIAN
SECTOR SAG MINISTRIES. WE HAVE ALSO INFORMED PRINCE MIT'AB
BIN ABD AL AZIZ OF THE PROCEDURE WE HAVE PROPOSED AND TOLD
HIM THAT A FORMAL RESPONSE TO HIS NOV 17 LETTER REQUESTING
CORPS ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLY TO
OUR FEB 1 NOTE.

2. GIVEN THE HIGH LEVEL OF PRINCE MIT'AB'S INTEREST IN THE
MATTER WE EXPECT SHORTLY TO RECEIVE A REPLY TO OUR NOTE WHICH,
ACCORDING TO THE PROCEDURE WE HAVE SUGGESTED, WILL CONSTITUTE
AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. AT THAT TIME
PRINCE MIT'AB, WHO ALREADY FEELS HE HAS BEEN KEPT WAITING A
LONG TIME, WILL EXPECT FAST ACTION FROM US. ARE WE CORRECT IN
ASSUMING THAT AS SOON AS THE REPLY FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS
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RECEIVED (ASSUMING THAT IT IS POSITIVE AND IN THE PROPER

FORM) THAT WE CAN AUTHORIZE THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO BEGIN DISCUSSION WITH PRINCE MIT'AB?

3. SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COE AND THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING WILL STILL BE NECESSARY. WE WOULD LIKE DEPT VIEWS ON WHAT FORM IT SHOULD TAKE. PRIOR TO THE INSTRUCTION REFTEL TO SEEK MODIFICATION OF THE 1965 AGREEMENT THE COE HAD SUBMITTED TO ITS HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON A DRAFT "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING" TO COVER ITS ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRY IN ITS REORGANIZATION. IN LIGHT OF THE PROBABLY FORTHCOMING MODIFICATIONS TO THE 1965 CORPS AGREEMENT, THAT DRAFT MOU CAN BE SIMPLIFIED; IT NEED NOT SPELL OUT SUCH MATTERS AS PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR INSTANCE. WOULD SUCH A SIMPLIFIED MOU REQUIRE FURTHER DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCE OR CAN IT BE SIGNED BY COE MEDDIV AFTER EMBASSY CLEARANCE? WE WOULD PREFER THIS APPROACH. PLEASE ADVISE.
HORAN

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